

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 07549 230831Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9992
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, JO, IS
SUBJECT: JORDAN PRESS REACTION TO RABIN'S RESIGNATION

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AR RAYY WAS FIRST TO REACT
WITH 20 DECEMBER EDITORIAL THAT ARGUED RABIN'S RESIGNA-
TION WOULD MEAN GOJ INTERIM GOVERNMENT INCAPABLE OF
CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED ISRAEL
THUS ABLE TO ESCAPT US PRESSURES FOR EARLY MOVES TOWARD
PEACE SETTLEMENT.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ARTICULATE JORDAN TIMES'
EDITORIAL 22 DECEMBER SOMWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC. IT
SEES COMING ISRAELI ELECTIONS IN WAKE OF RABIN
RESIGNATION AS PROVIDING ACCELERATED SCHEDULE FOR
ISRAELI "CEFERENDUM" ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. AT SAME
TIME, EDITORIAL EXPECTS ENSUING MANDATE TO BE
LIMITED AT MOST TO ISRAELI POSITION OF PARTIAL
WITHDRAWALS THAT DO NOT ADDRESS "FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS"
OF JERUSALEM AND PALESTINIANS. "WE EXPECT THAT,
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 07549 230831Z

AS USUAL, THE ISRAELIS WILL TALK ABOUT PEACE ON THE
BASIS OF SUCH CLEARLY LUDICROUS IDEAS AS THE ALLON
PLAN OR OTHER GENERAL PROPOSALS THAT EXPECT PEACE
TO COME OUT OF A PROCESS THAT WILL HAVE ISRAEL DO LITTLE
BEYOND GIVE BACK MOST OF SINAI AND STRETCHES OF THE
WEST BANK AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, WITHOUT GIVING UP

ARAB JERUSALEM AND ALL THE OCCUPIED ARAB
TERRITORIES, OR COMING TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
PALESTINIANS . . ." EDITORIAL ARGUES THAT ISRAELIS
NEED MORE TIME TO LEARN IMPORTANCE TO PEACE OF
"DIALOGUE WITH PALESTINIANS." EDITORIAL CONJECTURES,
HOWEVER, THAT "PERHAPS THE SIMULTANEOUS ADVENT OF
A NEW ISRAELI LEADERSHIP AND A NEW AMERICAN LEADERSHIP
IS THE COMBINATION THAT WILL SPARK CLEARER AMERICAN
AND ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS-- AND BOLDER ACTIONS-- IN THE
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PICTURE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LOU: COMMENT: LOCAL COMMENT WE HAVE HEARD
SO FAR TENDS TOWARD ARRAYY'S MORE PESSIMISTIC VIEW
OF RABIN'S RESIGNATION AS SCHEME TO DEFLATE ARAB
PEACE OFFENSIVE AND SLOW DOWN MOMENTUM TOWARD OVERALL
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. END LOU.
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